

NOTHING BUT THE BEST

By Stephen Delaney Hale

EVERYWHERE YOU TRAVEL IN SOUTH CAROLINA YOU'LL FIND GREAT GOLF COURSES DESIGNED BY ALL OF THE WORLD'S TOP ARCHITECTS. AND EVERY YEAR YOU'LL FIND SOUTH CAROLINA COURSES RECOGNIZED BY LEADING GOLF MAGAZINES AS AMONG THE FINEST IN THE NATION – SOME PERENNIAL FAVORITES AND SOME NEW COURSES MAKING THEIR NATIONAL REPUTATIONS.



Tidewater Golf Club, North Myrtle Beach



Caledonia, Pawleys Island

Golf Week Magazine's listing of their "Top Courses in the United States" features 10 great courses in South Carolina. Golf Week's list of its "Top 100 Resort Courses" features seven from the Palmetto State, and when they listed their "Top 100 Residential Courses" they named 15 from the state!

Golf Digest's "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses of 2005" features five from South Carolina. That's one more than either Florida or North Carolina.

And no less than nine of Golf Digest's "100 Greatest Public Golf Courses in America" are waiting for you in South Carolina.

The first two on every list are world famous.

The Ocean Course at Kiawah, #8, was the site of the 1991 Ryder Cup, certainly one of the greatest golf tournaments in history. The Ocean Course sits astride two and three-quarter miles of pristine Atlantic Ocean beach. Says architect Pete Dye, "There's no other golf course in the Northern Hemisphere that has as many seaside holes."

Just as famous is the site of the PGA MCI Heritage

Classic since 1969, Harbour Town Golf Links (#14) on Hilton Head Island. While other classic courses are stretching their tee boxes ever farther back to accommodate the length that the modern golf ball flies, the narrow fairways and tiny greens at Harbour Town – designed by Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus – stand the tests of time and technology.

The Love Course (Davis Love, III, that is) at Barefoot Golf Resort (#38) in North Myrtle Beach takes you back in time as you play around the recreated ruins of an old plantation house. The Tom Fazio course at Barefoot (#81) is reminiscent of European courses that do not return to the clubhouse after nine holes, and has water visible on 15 holes.

The legendary Dunes Golf and Beach Club (#39), designed in 1948 by Robert Trent Jones, set the standard of golf excellence in the Myrtle Beach area, now the #1 golf destination in the world.

Tidewater Golf Club (#67) was built in North Myrtle Beach in 1990, and is completely surrounded by the Intracoastal Waterway, saltwater marshes and the Atlantic Ocean.

Three new neighbors are on the list. Caledonia (#58) and sister course, True Blue (#93) are next door to Heritage Plantation (#78). Built on Colonial rice plantations, these courses share the extraordinary natural beauty of Pawley's Island, where fragrant magnolias and 300-year-old live oaks frame freshwater lakes and tranquil salt marshes beside the Atlantic Ocean.

All nine of these great courses are along the coast, but Biff Lathrop of the South Carolina Golf Association says there's more to see here. "Certainly play these great courses, and then stay a little longer. Our geography makes for so much variety. You'll be amazed at the number of wonderful golf courses and friendly people you'll find in South Carolina."

Find out more...

The Ocean Course, Kiawah Island, SC

www.kiawahgolf.com

Harbourtown Golf Links, Hilton Head Island, SC

www.seapines.com

Barefoot Resort & Golf, North Myrtle Beach, SC

www.barefootgolf.com

Caledonia Golf & Fish Club, Pawleys Island, SC

www.fishclub.com

The Dunes Golf & Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, SC

www.dunesgolfandbeachclub.com

Tidewater Golf Club, North Myrtle Beach, SC

www.tide-water.com

The Heritage Club, Pawleys Island, SC

www.legendsgolf.com

Barefoot Resort & Golf (Fazio), North Myrtle Beach, SC

www.barefootgolf.com

True Blue Golf Course, Pawleys Island, SC

www.truebluegolf.com